

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01897 261752Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
DHA-02 ORM-02 SSM-03 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05 A-01
OPR-02 AID-05 IO-13 OMB-01 ACDA-07 SCS-03 SCA-01
/113 W

-----261801Z 127767 /46

O R 261127Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3799

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1897

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR ACTION CHANGE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR MOPS LE SY

SUBJ: STANDSTILL IN SOUTHERN WEST BEIRUT

REF: BEIRUT 1871

1. AS OF MORNING APR 26, TENSE CALM PREVAILS IN CORNICHE
MAZRAA-MAKASSAD HOSPITAL AREA OF BEIRUT WHERE SYRIAN
OPERATIONS TOOK PLACE AGAINST PALESTINIAN REJECTIONISTS AND
THEIR LEBANESE LEFTIST ALLIES.

2. AFTER MORE FIGHTING, INCLUDING USE OF SOME ROCKETS,
AFTERNOON OF APR 25, SYRIANS STOPPED IN POSITIONS THEY HAD
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OCCUPIED AT ABOUT 1830 LOCAL. VEHICLES WITH LOUDSPEAKERS OF
"CLAP" (PALESTINIAN ARMED STRUGGLE COMMAND -- THE FATAH
MILITARY POLICE) THEN ENTERED AREA, BROADCASTING WARNINGS
THAT ANYONE SEEN WITH A WEAPON WOULD BE SHOT ON SIGHT. CALM
HAS PREVAILED SINCE, BROKEN ONLY BY A FEW SHOTS
HEARD EARLY APR 26.

3. SYRIANS ARE ENCOURAGING INHABITANTS TO LEAVE BUILDINGS IN AREA, AND ARE CONDUCTING THOROUGH HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCH FOR WEAPONS. SOME 4000 SYRIAN TROOPS NOW CONCENTRATED IN MAKASSAD HOSPITAL AREA, CONFRONTING PERHAPS AS MANY AS 1000 REJECTIONISTS AND LEFTISTS.

4. DAMAGE IN AREA EXTENSIVE, PARTICULARLY ALONG MAIN AXIS OF SYRIAN ADVANCE OF APR 24, WHICH BEING COMPARED WITH RUINS OF OLD DOWNTOWN CONFRONTATION LINE AREA.

5. COMMENT: OVERT SYRIAN-FATAH COOPERATION ON BEIRUT STREETS IS A NEW PHENOMENON, PERHAPS DUE TO SYRIAN ENVOY COL. KHOLI'S BEHIND-THE-SCENES NEGOTIATIONS AND REFLECTING STRENGTH OF SYRIAN-FATAH ALLIANCE AGAINST THE REJECTIONISTS.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MOPS, LE, SY, PLO
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